

- DRAFT -

Bylaw Subcommittee Meeting of the Town Meeting Electronic Voting Committee

Date: June 24, 2015

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 11:10 am in the First Floor Conference Room of Amherst Town Hall.

Committee Members in Attendance: Jim Pistrang, Mandi Jo Hanneke, Sandra Burgess, Chris Riddle

Member of the Public Participating: Rebecca Hanneke

Action Items: In Red

[Items in Brackets]: Post-meeting information added by secretary.

1. **Red or green cards:** We will still distribute a red card and a green card to all the members for them to use to express for and against when raising their hands. So item 4. in the Rules of Order stays the same.
2. **Tally Vote Cards:** We need to have tally vote cards available in case the electronic system fails. We'll have them available but won't distribute them unless they're needed.
3. **Scenarios:** We discussed options and arrived at the following:
 1. Agreed to mimic current procedures as closely as practical. We can always make further modifications as people become familiar with the system.
 2. We will start with a voice vote in all cases.
 3. We will eliminate the standing votes.
 4. There will be two types of electronic voting, one just to count ('Electronic Count') and another also recording the member's individual votes ('Electronic Tally'). For an Electronic Tally the members won't know the individual votes until the next day.
 5. What triggers an EV?
 1. The moderator is in doubt or otherwise wants one.
 2. For an Electronic Count, only, one member requesting.
 3. For an Electronic Tally, a larger number. It's now 15. We may want to adjust this.
 4. Sandra: Should we go to an electronic count automatically when 2/3 is needed?
4. **Draft Bylaw Modification:** We produced the following draft modification to Section 8 of the Rules of Order:

'8. VOICE VOTES, **ELECTRONIC VOTES**, TALLIED VOTES, AND STANDING VOTES. All votes unless otherwise provided for by law shall in the first instance be taken by 'ayes' and 'noes' voice vote.

8.a. If electronic voting is available, this section supercedes Section 8.b.

An Electronic Count vote will record only the total 'ayes' and 'noes'. An Electronic Tally vote will record the vote of each member, along with the total 'ayes' and 'noes'.

If any member questions the voice vote, or if four-fifths or nine-tenths vote is required by statute and the vote is not unanimous, the vote shall be taken by Electronic Count. When a two-thirds vote is required by statute, an Electronic Count shall not be taken unless the voice vote is doubted by the moderator or questioned by a member.

If, within a short but reasonable period of time following the voice vote, which period of time shall be fixed by the moderator, any member requests a tally vote and if 14 members manifest their concurrence with that member, an Electronic Tally vote shall be taken.

8. b. If electronic voting is not available, the following methods shall be used:

If any member questions the voice vote, or if a four-fifths or nine-tenths vote is required by statute and the vote is not unanimous, the vote shall be taken by counted standing vote. When a two thirds vote is required by statute, a counted standing vote shall not be taken unless the voice vote is doubted by the moderator or questioned by a member.

If, within a short but reasonable period of time following the voice vote, which period of time shall be fixed by the moderator, any member requests a tally vote and if 14 members manifest their concurrence with that member, the vote of each member shall be tallied by the use of a color-coded (green for aye, red for no) cards. Each such card shall bear the member's name and indicate his/her vote. Each member shall cast his/her own vote only. Such cards shall be collected and counted by the tellers, which count shall be determinative of the question.'

5. **Comment from the Public:** 'I need candy.'

6. **Adjournment:** adjourned at 11:55

by Chris Riddle, Secretary